

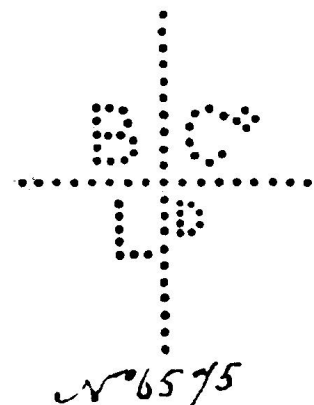
## SURPRISES FROM THE SPRING MEETING!.

Roy Gault

In response to Dave Hill's request to 'take something interesting' to the Spring Meeting in London, I took the following two items.

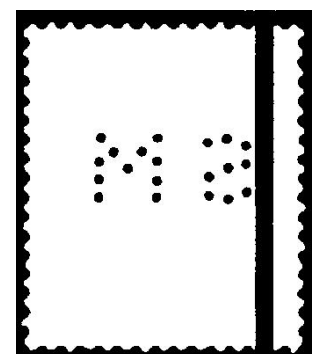
The first was the unusual "BC<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>d</sup> in a Cross" (B1565.01) that Bill Shields had recently reported to me on a QV ½d Slate (SGI 87), one postmarked London SW, 6<sup>th</sup> April 1886. I took Harry Skinner's copy *on piece* to be examined because the initialling process had gone through *both stamp and card*. Normally, this would exclude it from the Perfin Catalogue as the initials were probably applied *after* being postally used, and so probably applied as a receiving mark. Harry's piece also had a QV ½d Slate with the date 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1886 in manuscript, and part post-town of ...ham'. By pure chance, John Marriner had his copy with him at the meeting, again on a QV ½d Slate, but postmarked with '801' for Wimbledon.

The die itself was single headed and fitted by J Sloper & Co to their machine No. 6575. The impression in the ledger is undated, but it is in amongst cancelling dies (which Slopers also made) with 1885 date slugs, so c1885 would be a reasonable date for its manufacture.



*Can anyone provide any more details from examples they may hold as to stamp issues, values, and postmarks?*

The other stamp was a potentially rare 2d Wilding phosphor-graphite with the initials "SM" (S4760.01M). The stamp appeared to have one graphite line on the back, and two phosphor bands (instead of one) on the front. The watermark would be expected to be Multiple Crowns.



Stephen Steere has inspected the stamp for me under his phosphor lamp and the bands fluoresce *violet* instead of green. The watermark is indeed Multiple Crowns but the graphite line has been applied by hand - in other words, it's a FAKE